

Message Text

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UNCLAS ATHENS 7328

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, CY, GR
SUBJECT: TWO ATHENS DAILIES REPORT SECOND "CLIFFORD MISSION"

1. THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR CYPRUS CLARK CLIFFORD IN THE U.S. DELEGATION TO THE FUNERAL OF ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS LED TWO ATHENIAN NEWSPAPERS ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 7, TO REPORT THAT A SECOND "CLIFFORD MISSION" WAS IN EFFECT UNDERWAY. COMMUNIST (KKE-INTERIOR) AVGHI, HEADLINING "SECOND CLIFFORD MISSION IN NICOSIA," CLAIMED THAT THE AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVES AT THE FUNERAL, AMONG WHOM MR. CLIFFORD, ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST AND NELSON LEDSKY ARE CYPRUS "EXPERTS," WILL CONDUCT TALKS DURING THEIR STAY IN NICOSIA. ACCORDING TO AVGHI, THE "CLIFFORD MISSION" WOULD SEEK TO CANCEL THE APPEAL BY GREEK CYPRIOTS TO THE UN. A SECOND OBJECTIVE WOULD BE TO "RESURRECT" THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS WHICH THE US CAN THEN CITE AS "PROGRESS ON CYPRUS" AND THUS LIFT THE ARMS EMBARGO ON TURKEY.

2. LEFTIST SUNDAY ELEFTHEROTYPIA BANNERED "CLIFFORD
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UNDESIRABLE", AND IN SMALL PRINT, "IF HE COMES TO CYPRUS TO ASK FOR NEW CONCESSIONS, MR. V. LYSSARIDES TOLD SUNDAY ELEFTHEROTYPIA." THE PAPER'S SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN NICOSIA REPORTED THAT ACCORDING TO GOVERNMENT SOURCES IN NICOSIA, MR. CLIFFORD WOULD REMAIN IN NICOSIA AFTER THE FUNERAL FOR DISCUSSIONS ON THE CYPRUS QUESTION. THE STORY CLAIMS THE USG WANTS A SPEEDY SOLUTION. IT WENT ON TO SAY THAT

THE "SECOND CLIFFORDMISSION" SEEKS TO RESUME THE INTERNATIONAL TALKS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND TO SOLVE QUICKLY THE PROBLEM OF MAKARIOS' SUCCESSOR IN A FASHION MOST SATISFACTORY FOR US INTERESTS IN THE AREA. (A REPORT IN TO VIMA OVER THE WEEKEND FROM ITS CORRESPONDENT EFSTATHIADIS CLAIMED THAT WHILE THE USG WAS FAVORABLY INCLINED TOWARD KYPRIANOU, CLERIDES WAS ITS CLEAR PREFERENCE AS SUCCESSOR TO MAKARIOS.)

3. THE ELEFTHERTOTYPIA ARTICLE QUOTED VASSOS LYSSARIDES, HEAD OF EDEK, AS SAYING IN AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW THAT IF MR. CLIFFORD WERE COMING TO PLAY A ROLE BEYOND HIS PRESENCE AT THE FUNERAL (I.E., ON THE CYPRUS QUESTION), HE WOULD NOT BE WELCOME UNDER PRESENT CONDITIONS. LYSSARIDES CHARGED THAT CLIFFORD HAD DECEIVED THE GREEK-CYPRITOT SIDE DURING HIS PREVIOUS VISIT. HE CLAIMED CLIFFORD HAD LET IT BE KNOWN THEN THAT IF THE GREEK CYPRITOT SIDE MADE CONCESSIONS, THE US WOULD PUT PRESSURE ON TURKEY FOR A COMPROMISE SOLUTION ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH SIDES. IF TURKEY DID NOT ACCEPT THIS, LYSSARIDES CONTINUED, CLIFFORD INDICATED THE US SIDE WOULD AT LEAST SPEAK OUT OPENLY ABOUT TURKISH INTRANSIGENCE. IN THE END THE GREEK CYPRITOTS MADE CONCESSIONS (WITH WHICH WE -- I.E., EDEK -- DISAGREED) BUT THE US DID NOT APPLY ANY PRESSURE ON TURKEY. LYSSARIDES CONCLUDED THAT IF CLIFFORD WERE COMING TO PRESS FOR FURTHER CONCESSIONS OR TO ATTEMPT TO SIDETRACK THE CYPRUS QUESTION FROM THE UN THROUGH HIS OWN INTERVENTION, HIS PRESENCE WOULD NOT BE WELCOME.

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MILLS

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Sent Date: 08-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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